

REMARKS

I. Introduction.

Claims 1-63 are pending. Claims 1-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102. Claims 10-22 and 25-63 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 24 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 7, and 24 have been amended. Other embodiments without the amendments to Claim 1 may be claimed herein, or in a continuing application. It should also be understood that the term "plurality", as used in the claims, includes two or more compartments. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 64 - 73 have been added.

II. The 35 U.S.C. Section 102 Rejections.

A. Based on U.S. Patent 4,776,455 issued to Anderson, et al.

Claims 1-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,776,455 issued to Anderson, et al.

The Office Action states that Anderson teaches a multicompartmental sachet for delivering multiple wash agents which are released sequentially in a washing machine, and that Anderson teaches various geometries including compartments adjacent to each other and compartments within compartments.

The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Anderson, et al. reference discloses a multi-compartment sachet product in which the sachets are either in a side-by-side relationship, or in the form of a "sachet within a sachet". Among other things, the Anderson reference does not teach or disclose a water-soluble pouch comprising a plurality of compartments in a generally superposed relationship, wherein the one or more detergent active or auxiliary components in a first compartment is in the form of a liquid, and the one or more detergent active or auxiliary components in a second compartment is in the form of a powder or densified powder.

The Applicants believe that the Anderson reference also does not teach or disclose a pouch that comprises, among other things, upper and lower generally opposing outer walls, a skirt-like side wall and one or more internal partitioning walls, and wherein each of

said upper and lower outer walls and said skirt-like side wall are formed by a method selected from the group consisting of thermoforming, vacuum forming, and combinations thereof as claimed in Claim 2.

The Applicants believe that the Anderson reference also does not teach or disclose a pouch wherein each internal partitioning wall is secured to an outer or side wall of said pouch along a single seal line or to both an outer and a side wall of said pouch along a plurality of seal lines that are at least partially non-overlapping as claimed in Claim 3.

The Applicants believe that the Anderson reference also does not teach or disclose a pouch wherein each partitioning wall is secured to one or more outer or side walls by heat or solvent sealing as claimed in Claim 4.

The Applicants believe that the Anderson reference also does not teach or disclose a pouch wherein at least one internal partitioning wall is secured to an upper or lower outer wall along a first continuous seal line and one or both of said outer wall and said partitioning wall are secured to the skirt-like side wall along a second continuous seal line and wherein said seal lines, in the case of heat seals, are essentially non-overlapping and in the case of solvent seals, are at least partially non-overlapping as claimed in Claim 5.

The Applicants believe that the Anderson reference also does not teach or disclose a pouch comprising a longitudinally-extending waist region defined by said first and second seal lines, said first seal line or non-overlapping portion thereof being situated inwardly of the second seal line and longitudinally off-set therefrom, whereby said waist region and said skirt-like side wall are generally coextensive with one another as claimed in Claim 6.

The Applicants believe that the Anderson reference also does not teach or disclose a pouch comprising upper and lower generally opposing outer walls, a skirt-like side wall and one or more internal partitioning walls wherein at least one internal partitioning wall is secured to an upper or lower outer wall along a first seal line and one or both of said outer wall and said partitioning wall are secured to the skirt-like side wall along a second seal line and wherein the seal lines are at least partially non-overlapping as claimed in Claim 7.

The Applicants believe that the Anderson reference also does not teach or disclose a pouch having a longitudinally-extending waist region defined by said first and second seal lines, said first seal line or non-overlapping portion thereof being situated inwardly of the

second seal line and longitudinally off-set therefrom, whereby said waist region and skirt-like side wall are generally cocxtensive with one another as claimed in Claim 8.

B. Based on U.S. Patent 5,132,036 issued to Falou, et al.

Claims 1-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,132,036 issued to Falou, et al.

The Office Action states, among other things, that Falou teaches a multi-compartment pouch wherein the compartments can vary in size and number. The Office Action further states that Falou discusses other geometries including back-to-back, side-by-side, etc.

The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Abstract of the Falou, et al. '036 reference states that the laundry treatment product disclosed therein is "in the form of a single compartment of multicompartment sachet capable of releasing its contents into the wash liquor during the laundry process, contains a particulate laundry treatment composition * * *." (emphasis added) Among other things, the Falou, et al. '036 reference does not teach or disclose a water-soluble pouch comprising a plurality of compartments in generally superposed relationship, wherein the one or more detergent active or auxiliary components in a first compartment is in the form of a liquid, and the one or more detergent active or auxiliary components in a second compartment is in the form of a powder or densified powder.

The Falou '036 reference does disclose in Col. 14, lines 59-62, "[w]here two or more compartments are present, the compartments may, for example, by side-by-side, joined by a common seal, or pairs of compartments may be arranged back-to-back, joined by a common wall." The Applicants believe, however, that the Falou '036 reference does not teach or disclose the at least partially non-overlapping seals of the pouches described in Claims 5-8.

C. Based on U.S. Patent 5,160,654 issued to Falou, et al.

Claims 1-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,160,654 issued to Falou, et al.

The Office Action states that the Falou, et al. '654 reference teaches multi-compartment sachets of various dimensions and geometries, and time-delayed release in these multi-compartment sachets.

The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Applicants believe that, among other things, the Falou, et al. '654 reference does not teach or disclose a water-soluble pouch comprising a plurality of compartments in generally superposed relationship, wherein the one or more detergent active or auxiliary components in a first compartment is in the form of a liquid, and the one or more detergent active or auxiliary components in a second compartment is in the form of a powder or densified powder.

The Falou '654 reference does disclose in Col. 9, lines 25-26, in a two compartment sachet that, the compartments may, for example, be side-by-side, joined by a common seal, or back-to-back, joined by a common wall. The Applicants believe, however, that the Falou '654 reference does not teach or disclose the at least partially non-overlapping seals of the pouches described in Claims 5-8.

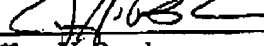
III. Claim 24.

Claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form as requested, and should now be in condition for allowance.

IV. Summary.

All of the rejections have been addressed. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested as to Claims 1-8 and 23-24.

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